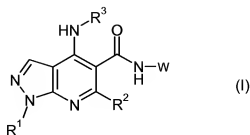


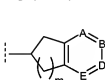
ABSTRACT

Pyrazolo[3,4-b]pyridine compounds, and their use as PDE4 inhibitors

The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:



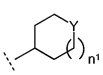
wherein W is Ar, $-\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5\text{Ar}$ or a group (y) or (y1), wherein Ar is (x) or (z):



R^1 is C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-3} fluoroalkyl or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.

R^2 is C_{2-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-C}_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl;

and R^3 is optionally substituted C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted mono-unsaturated- C_{5-7} cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc) (in which Y is O, S, SO_2 , or NR^{10}), or a bicyclic group (ee):



These compounds are PDE4 inhibitors.